

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: SMALL VOLUME GAS TRANSPORTATION	DOCKET NO. NOI-98-3
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ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE COMMENTS

(Issued November 9, 2000)

The Utilities Board (Board) established this docket on December 28, 1998, to hold workshops for the development of competitive markets for transportation of natural gas to small volume end-users. By order issued March 3, 2000, the Board dismissed all of the filed plans, finding that the plans did not provide a satisfactory means to open the natural gas market to small volume gas end-users. In that order the Board determined that removal of barriers to competition would best be accomplished by each public utility filing company-specific tariffs.

On August 8, 2000, the Board, based upon a review of the comments and consideration of the workshops, found that the most effective way to move the process forward was to have each utility file draft tariffs in this docket for Board review. The draft tariffs were due on October 9, 2000. Draft tariffs have been filed by MidAmerican Energy Company, Interstate Power Company, IES Utilities Inc., Peoples Natural Gas Company, Division of UtiliCorp United Inc. (Peoples) and United Cities Gas Company (United Cities).

The Board issued an order on October 11, 2000, allowing interested parties until October 30, 2000, to file comments concerning the draft tariffs, except for Peoples and United Cities. Comments are due for Peoples and United Cities draft tariffs on November 14, 2000.

The Board has now received a request by the National Energy Marketers Association (NEMA) and Otter Tail Energy Services Company (Otter Tail) for an extension to file their comments on all the draft tariffs. The Board will grant NEMA and Otter Tail the extension to November 21, 2000. This will allow NEMA and Otter Tail to file comments concerning all the draft tariffs at one time. The comment date for all other responses concerning the Peoples and United Cities draft tariffs will also be extended to November 21, 2000. The Board will then set a single date for all the utilities to respond to all the comments due on October 30, 2000, and November 21, 2000.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The National Energy Marketer Association and Otter Tail Energy Services Company are granted an extension to November 21, 2000, to file comments concerning all the draft tariffs filed in this docket.
2. The comment deadline for all other responses concerning the Peoples and United Cities draft tariffs shall also be on or before November 21, 2000.
3. The utilities may file responses to all of the comments concerning all of the draft tariffs on or before November 28, 2000.

4. Comments and responses shall be served on any other person who has filed comments, the utilities, and the Consumer Advocate Division of the Department of Justice.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Raymond K. Vawter, Jr. /s/ Diane Munns
Executive Secretary

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 9th day of November, 2000.